

A Self-Guided Tour  
of Historic Sites  
and Architecture

# Geocache

THE PEMBINA WALSH HISTORIC TRAIL



**Pembina County**  
PRESERVING OUR PAST

# Welcome!

The Pembina County Historic Preservation Commission invites you to tour historic Pembina County. From the early transportation routes carved by oxcarts to the grand example of the Beaux Arts Neo-Classical architectural style of the Pembina County Courthouse, you will enjoy the cultural and historic treasures of Pembina County.

## **Pembina County Historic Preservation Commission**

The purpose of the Pembina County Historic Preservation Commission is to establish a program for the designation, preservation, protection, renovation and use of historic properties within Pembina County.

★ Gold star indicates a PWHT geocache site

*Featured properties listed on the  
National Register of Historic Places*

## **U.S. Customs House & Post Office**

112 Stutsman St., Pembina, ND 58271

N48° 58.002' W97° 14.650'



At one of the busiest ports of entry along the longest international land border in the world, this beautiful building built during the Great Depression is quite an imposing structure in this small, but vibrant community. The building formerly housed the

U.S. Custom Service and U.S. Post Office. It makes a grand statement in the heart of Pembina. Built in 1932 at a cost of \$115,000 it is constructed in Dutch Colonial style with a gambrel-style roof and classical detailing. The exterior walls are deep red wire-faced brick laid in English Bond. This building is not open to the public.

## Pembina County Courthouse

301 Dakota St. W., Cavalier, ND 58220

N48° 47.502' W97° 37.533' ★

The courthouse is an example of the Beaux Arts Neo-Classical architectural style. One of the 13 county courthouses in North Dakota designed by the St. Paul firm of Buechner and Orth between 1904 and 1919, the structure is an impressive, durable, and beautiful part of the state's heritage of public buildings. The Pembina County Courthouse is the only Buechner and Orth courthouse that does not have a central dome, but it does have a functioning rotunda skylight with attendant murals and stencil treatments. The vaulted stained glass skylight springs from interior pilasters at the level of the second story ceiling. This exquisite stained-glass dome/skylight was designed by Bruce Richardson of Bathgate, ND. The two-story brick sheriff's residence and jail stand to the south of the courthouse. A new Law Enforcement Center was built to the south of the Courthouse in 1975, with an addition in 1993. This building is open Monday through Friday 8:30 am - 12:00 pm, 12:30 pm - 4:30 pm.



## Gunlogson Farmstead

13571 Hwy 5, Cavalier, ND 58220 (on site of Icelandic State Park)

N48° 46.3662' W97° 44.372' ★

The Gunlogson Farmstead historic site consists of a farmhouse, barn, four related outbuildings, and various landscape features proximate to the farm property homesteaded in 1880 by Eggert and Rannveig Gunnlaugson, immigrants to North



America from Iceland. The farmstead is included within the boundaries of Icelandic State Park, much of which was gifted by the Gunlogsons for use as a nature preserve, arboretum, and pioneer heritage interpretive center. The farmhouse, finished in 1890, now has five rooms on the main floor and one room upstairs. All rooms have been staged with antiques to appear as it did when the Gunlogson's occupied the home. The barn, built in 1922, was built by John Gunlogson with blocks from his concrete plant. The upstairs of the barn, which was built into the hillside, is now used as the Visitor Center at the Farmstead site. The Farmstead is open Memorial Day through Labor Day. Guided tours are available during the summer by appointment – call 701-265-4561.

## Gingras Trading Post

12899 105th St. NE, Walhalla, ND 58282

N48° 56.215' W97° 53.459' ★



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Native peoples were the first to harvest berries and buffalo in the northeastern corner of what is now North Dakota. European fur traders followed. The Gingras Trading Post is one of the few tangible remains of the fur trade era that led to the

establishment of colonies and major transportation routes in this part of the state. Built during the 1840s by Antoine B. Gingras, a prominent fur trader, the site consists of two buildings – a trading post and a home. Gingras was significant in the history of the region, being elected to serve in the 1851 Minnesota Territorial House of Representatives and participating in the 1869 rebellion led by Louis Riel against the government of Manitoba to gain a national homeland/self-government for the Metis. Gingras also participated in the chartering of the city of Winnipeg. Both buildings have been restored to their original appearance. This State Historical Society of ND owned site is open for tours Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. The site grounds with outdoor interpretive signs are open year-round.

## Grace Episcopal Church

152 Ramsey St. W, Pembina, ND 58271

N48° 57.971' W97° 14.770'

Constructed in 1886, the Grace Episcopal Church was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in September of 1994, as a multiple property listing of "Episcopal Churches of North Dakota." The church is constructed of Pembina brick and is one of the remaining structures within the city built of Pembina brick. Grace Episcopal was one of 22 Episcopal churches built in North Dakota between 1883 and 1886. A mainstay of the Gothic Revival style, a steeply pitched gable roof caps the building. Stained glass lancet windows adorn the sanctuary. In 1937 the United Methodist Church purchased the property and continues to use the church today as the Pembina Pioneer Memorial United Methodist. An addition to the rear of the church was constructed in 1937.



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## Drayton United Methodist Church

203 N Main St., Drayton, ND 58225

N48° 33.794' W97° 10.656'

The Drayton United Methodist Church was built in 1905-1906 and replaced the original smaller structure which had served the religious needs of the community. The structure was designed by architect A. W. McCrea of New York City and formerly of Drayton.

When completed in 1906, this building was by far the most substantial church in the Drayton area. The church exterior was constructed entirely of Drayton brick and serves as a reminder of the pioneer brick industry, which closed in 1920. The building combines late Romanesque



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Revival Stylistic elements with features generally associated with Gothic themes. The steeple which rises at the south end of the façade is a square brick tower with a pyramidal roof, surmounted by a shingled and metal-capped wooden hexagonal spire. The building remained unaltered from the date of construction until 1947 when the basement was finished, entry addition constructed, and the choir loft lowered.

## O'Connor House

645 7th Ave., St. Thomas, ND 58276

N48° 36.695' W97° 26.557'



The O'Connor House, built in St. Thomas, ND in 1898, is a two and one-half story wood frame dwelling in the Queen Ann style. The structure features steep gabled and hipped roofs, an octagonal corner turret with bellcast roof and metal cap and finial. Archie O'Connor,

builder of the home, was one of the first St. Thomas settlers in 1881. In 1885 he became a partner with his brother in a grain elevator business, he served as Pembina County sheriff from 1882-1892, and was U.S. Collector of Customs in North and South Dakota from 1893-1899. The O'Connor family also conducted large scale farming operations in the St. Thomas area. The O'Connor family no longer owns the house; however, it remains a private family dwelling. No tours are offered.

## Walla Theater

909 Central Ave, Walhalla, ND 58282

N48° 55.337' W97° 54.962'



A live performance from Tex Ritter and his horse on a weekend in the 1950s is the claim to fame for the Walla Theater in Walhalla, ND. The historic theater holds some fond memories for many longtime Walhalla

residents. The 40-by-120-foot theater was built in 1949 and its first two films featured “The Reformer and the Redhead,” and “The Daughter of Rosie O’Grady.” Over the years, the Walla also hosted scores of local events, including Santa Claus holiday parties, John Deere Days and other agricultural events. The theater closed in 1982 but reopened as a live performance venue in May 2019.

## Dease-Martineau House

West of Intersection of 105th St. and 136th Ave. NE, Leroy, ND

N48° 56.085' W97° 44.299' ★

The Dease-Martineau House, Trading Post, and Oxcart Trail Historic District near Leroy has log buildings built using Red River construction techniques and includes segments of oxcart trails. John W. Dease Jr. had the post built and operated it not only as a trading post, but also as a meeting place that hosted many important figures in the region from 1868 until the 1890s. The property came into the hands of the French and Métis Martineau family around 1900. The Martineau family preserved the property for most of the 20th century.

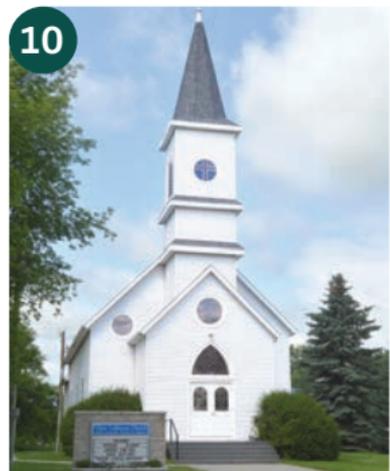


## Vikur Lutheran Church

209 Main Ave., Mountain, ND 58262

N48° 41.141' W97° 51.918'

Built in 1885, Vikur Lutheran Church, located in Mountain, ND, is the oldest Icelandic Lutheran church in North America. In the spring of 1878, the first Icelanders left Canada for Dakota. Later that year, the first Icelandic sermon was delivered by Séra



(Pastor) Páll Thorláksson, “The Father of the Icelandic Settlement in Dakota.” By the fall of 1879, about 50 families had moved to the Pembina Hills area. The church was built on land donated in 1881 by Pastor Thorláksson, who was influential in establishing the Icelandic American community in the area and who died in 1882, before its construction.

The church is historically significant as a Late Gothic Revival architecture church on the territorial frontier, for the events associated with settlement and social history of Icelandic-Americans prior to North Dakota statehood, and as an embodiment of this distinct cultural heritage regionally. To this day, Mountain, ND is a destination for Icelandic diplomats, heads of state, and high-ranking figures in Iceland, who usually make a pilgrimage during the annual celebration of Icelandic Heritage known as August the Deuce.

## Crystal Bridge

East Appleton Ave., Crystal, ND 58222

N48° 35.816' W97° 40.333' ★



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The Crystal Bridge was nominated to the National Register of Historic Properties in 1997 as part of a multiple listing for Historic Roadway Bridges in North Dakota. Also referred to as the Cart Creek Bridge, the bridge was constructed in 1927 at

a cost of \$4,187. The contract for construction of the bridge was awarded to Fargo Bridge & Iron Company on December 20, 1927. The bridge is located at the western edge of rural Crystal on a paved, single-lane road. The bridge is a two-span concrete T-beam structure approximately 66 feet long and 25 feet wide. The bridge retains a high level of integrity and all major structural components appear to retain their “as-built” appearance. The Crystal Bridge is one of two of the oldest documented concrete T-beams in North Dakota. The bridge is maintained by Pembina County.

## Icelandic Evangelical Lutheran Church

415 Beaupre St. (AKA Adelaide St.) Pembina, ND 58271

N 48° 96.205 W 97° 24.292

The historic Icelandic Evangelical Lutheran Church, otherwise known as the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of St. John, was erected in 1885 by Sigurur Myrdal and Olafur Thorsteinson and is second oldest Icelandic church in the United States. As the number of Icelandic families in Pembina



declined, the church was sold to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of St. John in 1937. An onion dome (lukovitsa) was added in 1957 and the interior was redecorated. This church served the Icelandic population of Pembina for 52 years, subsequently served the Ukrainian population for another 50 years, and has since then been preserved and maintained for over 30 years by the Fort Pembina Historical Society. Tours are available by appointment, call 701-825-6840.



**Pembina County**  
PRESERVING OUR PAST

## OTHER PLACES TO VISIT IN Pembina County

### Pembina State Museum

805 ND-59, Pembina, ND 58271  
N48°58.382 W97° 15.271

### Pembina County Historical Museum

13572 ND-5, Cavalier, ND 58220  
N48° 46.260 W97° 44.369

### Drayton Blessing Museum

201 Almeron Ave., Drayton, ND 58225  
N48° 33.705 W97° 10.783

### Pioneer Heritage Center and Gunlogson Homestead/ Nature Preserve

13571 Highway 5, Cavalier, ND 58220  
*(on site of Icelandic State Park)*  
N48° 46.366 W97° 44.372

### Martyrs Graves (Hillside Cemetery)

501 Division St., Walhalla, ND 58282  
N48° 55.059 W97° 55.729

### Masonic Scenic Overlook

within Walhalla city limits, located approximately 1/4 mile off the Rendezvous Region Scenic  
N48° 54.681 W97° 55.568

### Tetrault Woods State Forest

1½ miles south – State Highway #32 North and three miles West on County Road 55  
N48° 54.026 W97° 56.949

### Riverside Park

Riverside Avenue, Walhalla, ND 58282

### Cavalier Forest Nature Trail

Cavalier City Park  
West 2nd Ave N and Park St., Cavalier, ND 58225

### Cav-landic Trail

Paved non-motorized 7 mile trail from Cavalier to Cavalier Country Club along ND Hwy 5. Several access points

### Goschke Dam

12.4 miles west of Cavalier, ND 58225 on ND Hwy 5  
N48° 47.634 W97° 53.745

### Wildlife Management Areas

go to <http://gf.nd.gov/wma/listing> for a listing of all areas in Pembina County

# WELCOME TO THE PEMBINA WALSH HISTORIC TRAIL (PWHT)!



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- ★ 43 Borg Pioneer Memorial Home – Mountain
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- ★ 46 Pioneer Daughters Memorial – Cavalier
- ★ 47 West Point Cemetary – Crystal
- ★ 48 Norval Baptie Memorial – Bathgate
- ★ 49 Walker House – Pembina
- ★ 50 Stokesville – Crystal

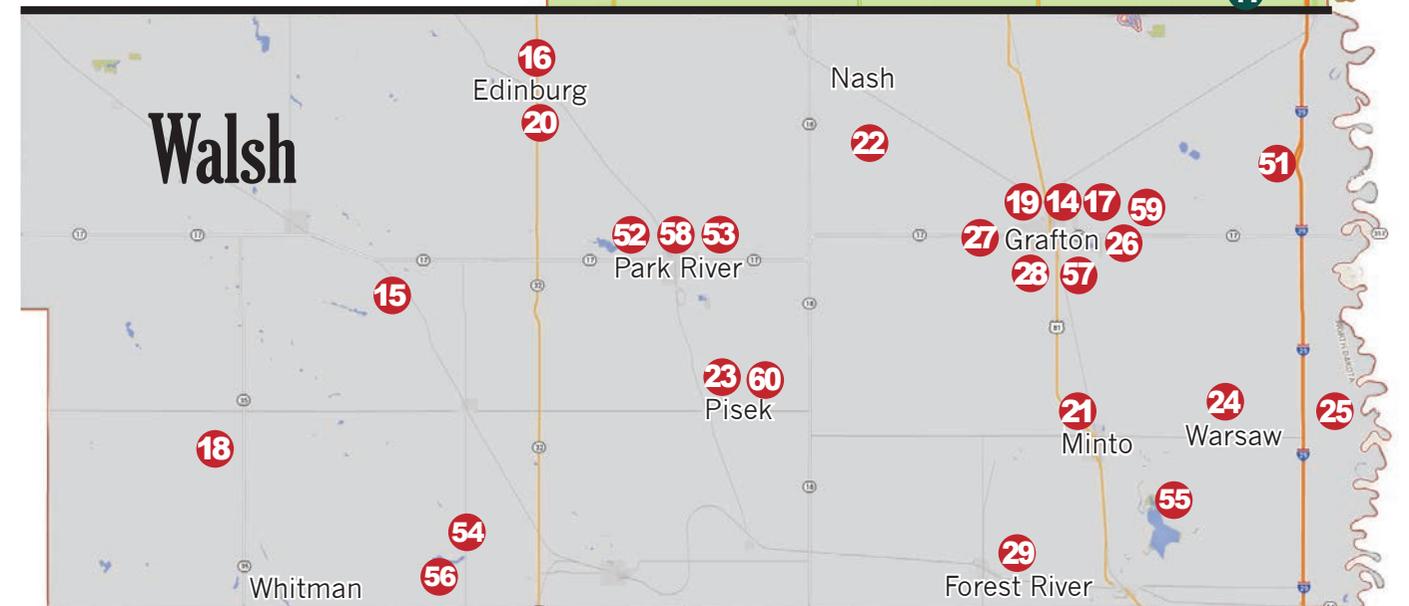
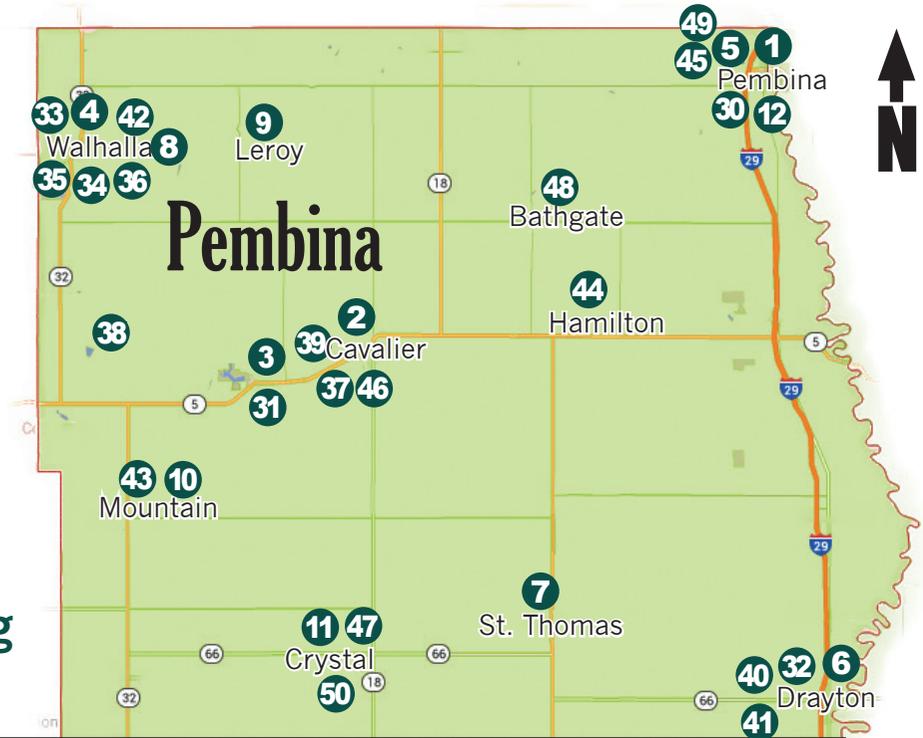
- 13 Ridge Trail Historic District – Various Sites (No Access)
- ★ 14 Walsh County Courthouse – Grafton
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- 27 Carnegie Regional Library – Grafton
- ★ 28 Strand Theatre – Grafton
- 29 Forest River State Bank – Forest River, ND
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- 52 Homme Dam Recreation Area – Park River
- ★ 53 Women's Christian Temperance Union Fountain – Park River
- 54 Matecjek Dam Recreation Area – Lankin
- 55 Lake Ardoch National Wildlife Refuge – Ardoch
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- ★ 57 Heritage Village – Grafton
- ★ 58 Pioneer Machinery Village – Park River
- ★ 59 Carlson House – Grafton
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★ Gold star indicates the location of a PWHT geocache

Geocache historic sites on this trail and earn a commemorative coin after finding five caches in each county! Our caches are located at the most interesting historical sites in Pembina and Walsh counties in northeast North Dakota. PWHT trail caches are marked on this legend with a gold star. Go to [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com) to get started on this fun and informative history tour of Pembina and Walsh counties!



Start geocaching now!



Our caches are located at the most interesting historical sites in Pembina and Walsh counties in northeast North Dakota.

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of Historic Sites  
and Architecture

# Geocache

THE PEMBINA WALSH HISTORIC TRAIL



— WALSH COUNTY —  
**HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION  
COMMISSION**  
PRESERVING OUR PAST

# Welcome!

The Walsh County Historic Preservation Commission invites you to tour historic Walsh County. Walsh County is rich in historic places and evidence of its cultural heritage. From the Oxcart Trails - early transportation routes carved into the prairie soil which connected Winnipeg, Manitoba to St. Paul, Minnesota and the Mississippi River - to the majestic Victorian mansions built by the distinguished families that settled here, you will find a trip through Walsh County's history interesting and intriguing.

## Walsh County Historic Preservation Commission

The purpose of the Walsh County Historic Preservation Commission is to establish a program for the designation, preservation, protection, renovation and use of historic properties within Walsh County.

★ Gold star indicates a PWHT geocache site

*Featured properties listed on the  
National Register of Historic Places*

## Walsh County Courthouse

638 Cooper Ave., Grafton, ND 58237

N48° 25.131' W97° 24.313' ★



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A grand example of the fine craftsmanship completed by those who found work with the Works Progress Administration (WPA) during the Great Depression, the Walsh County Courthouse exhibits a great degree of artistic quality in its

decoration. Dedicated in 1940, the building's design is a showcase of a diverse collection of metals, woods and marbles and is the only courthouse of Art Deco styling in the northeastern part of the state. Open 8:00 to 12:00 and 12:30 to 4:30 Monday thru Friday.

## District 70 Hoff Rural School

6591 122nd Ave. NE Adams, ND

N48° 22.143' W97° 59.417' ★

Built in 1885, the country school building for Walsh County District No. 70 (locally known as Hoff School) is typical of many one-room school buildings. Situated near the boundary line between Norton and Vesta townships, the school building is tucked into a belt of natural timber land close to the juncture of two coulees feeding the north branch of the Forest River. Inside and out, the school building is in a near original state of maintenance and preservation. The building is not open to the public.

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## Edinburg WPA Auditorium

67 Main, Edinburg, ND 58227

N48° 29.744' W97° 51.834' ★

This Art Deco structure was built in 1938 as part of the Works Progress Administration (PWA) jobs program. It is a wood frame building two stories high, sheathed in boards to which a stucco finish has been applied. There is a central projecting section on the front facade. The building was used as a local social center through the middle decades of the 20th century, with roller skating being a popular pastime. It is now home to the Edinburg General Store. Store hours are Monday through Saturday, 8 am to 5 pm.

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## U.S. Post Office - Grafton

506 Griggs Ave., Grafton, ND 58237

N48° 25.160' W97° 24.750'

The U.S. Post Office in Grafton is one of nine built in North Dakota between 1932 and 1940. The U.S. Treasury Department

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used standardized plans for the buildings and local organizations tried vigorously to influence the design, but to no avail. The building is one of three North Dakota examples of the Colonial Revival style of post office design, with the noticeable front portico columns. This building is open Monday-Friday 8:30 am to 11 am, Noon to 4:45 pm, and from 9 to 10 am Saturday.

## St. Catherine's Church of Lomice

4 miles W and 2 miles S of Jct. of ND 35 and County Rd 15, Whitman, ND 58259

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N48° 16.882' W98° 12.630'

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The church is a one and one-half story late Gothic Revival style building constructed in the years 1936-1938 on land settled by Czech immigrants. The building is constructed of randomly coursed granite fieldstone. The design of the grounds containing one

large grotto and three small grottos, complements this Roman Catholic parochial church building by regional architect Joseph Bell DeRemer of Grand Forks.

## Historic Elmwood

Stephen Ave. & 2nd St, Grafton, ND 58237

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N48° 25.352' W97° 24.355' ★

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Situated on 20 acres within an oxbow of the Park River in Grafton, ND is the Historic Elmwood House. The house features fine art glass and Birdseye maple and oak woodwork. One of the highlights is a splendid carved stairway. The house was built in 1895 by C.A.M. Spencer, the state's second attorney general, and was later

purchased by William C. Treumann, commander of the North Dakota Volunteers, followed by Luther and Mary Nancy Williamson, owners of one of the state's last independent milk companies. The Historic Elmwood House is open by appointment only. Call Grafton Parks and Recreation at 701-352-1842 weekdays between 8 am and 4:30 pm.

## State Bank of Edinburg

300 Main Ave., Edinburg, ND 58227

N48° 29.751' W97° 51.863'

Positioned along Edinburg's main commercial avenue, the State Bank of Edinburg continues to reflect its origins as an early 20th century banking institution. The small building's Romanesque profile projects an air of strength and security. Resting on a stone foundation, the brick building has a decorative cornice and parapet crown on both the front façade and northwest side. Despite some alterations, the State Bank of Edinburg can claim good historic integrity.



## Minto School

Corner of Major Ave. and 3rd St., Minto, ND 58261

N48° 17.608' W97° 22.389' ★

Once home to school children in elementary through high school grade levels, the Minto School is now known as the Walsh County Historical Museum. Built in 1895 from bricks made in Minto, North Dakota, the school's classrooms each now tell separate stories of pioneer life on the prairie, with many unique displays of the past with artifacts that have been given as gifts to the Museum. The museum is open Sundays & holidays 1:00-4:00 p.m. from the Sunday before Memorial Day to the last Sunday in September.



## Nordre Trefoldegheds Menigheds

7265 143rd Ave. NE, Grafton, ND 58237

N48° 27.941' W97° 33.450'

Nordre Trefoldegheds Menigheds, or The Swede Church, built in 1893 near Nash, North Dakota, is more commonly referred to locally as North Trinity Church. It represents the Gothic Revival



style of architecture, with a front-gable and a steeple and was built by carpenter Knut Staven. Since the congregation disbanded in 1950, an annual service has been held at the site.

## Pisek School

Main St. and Lovick Ave., Pisek, ND 58273

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N48° 18.613' W97° 42.416'

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With one high school senior graduating in 1986, its last year of operation, the Pisek School and its youngest alum gained a fleeting moment of national notoriety. Now a private residence, the school building's exterior has seen little change. The four-

story Pisek School, built in 1913, is a Classical Revival style building designed by a well-known Grand Forks architect, John W. Ross. The building is red pressed brick with a poured concrete foundation and Bedford limestone trim. The building is not open to the public.

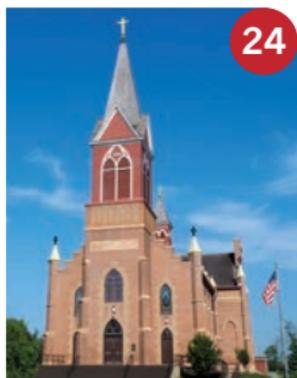
## St. Stanislaus Church

County Rd 15, Warsaw, ND 58261

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N48° 17.720' W97° 15.212'

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Designed by the famed regional architect John W. Ross of Grand Forks, ND, the St. Stanislaus Church, with attendant rectory and cemetery, and the St. Anthony Academy constructed in 1920 (now known as St. Gianna's Maternity Home), are integral parts of a district of historical importance to the local

community mostly of Polish decent. St. Stanislaus Church, built in 1901, is a splendid example of the Gothic Revival design. The church's 19 stained glass windows allow diffused light to heighten the appreciation of the profuse statuary, canopied pulpit, and twin carved confessionals.

## St. Joseph's Chapel

Between I-29 and the Red River,  
5 miles east and 1 mile north of  
Warsaw, ND 58261

N48° 18.576' W97° 8.745'

Built just large enough to fit a priest and two altar servers, St. Joseph's Chapel is one of the smallest chapels in the United States. Constructed in 1907, it is a symbol of faith for those who labored the land on which it stands. Each year the community and visitors come to worship in the roadside church. The chapel is open in the daylight hours.

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## Grafton State School

700 6th St. W, Grafton, ND 58237

N48° 25.186' W97° 25.352'

The Grafton State School Historic District is part of the campus of the former Grafton State School, North Dakota's institution for the care of people with developmental disabilities, now known as the Life Skills and Transition Center. It consists of six structures and the remnants of a semi-subterranean tunnel system, all of which are contributing elements of the historic district. The architectural styles represented in the structures at the facility include Classic Revival, Beaux Arts, Prairie School, and Art Deco. The buildings that serve the general public are open Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

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## Carnegie Regional Library

630 Griggs Ave., Grafton, ND 58237

N48° 25.067' W97° 24.741'

The theme of building patronage has been nowhere more resonant than in the philanthropy of Andrew Carnegie. Of his efforts,

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the Library Program is the most well-known. In North Dakota, thirteen Carnegie Libraries were built between 1901 and 1916. In 1902, Grafton citizens wrote a letter asking for a grant for the library building and started a campaign to raise money for construction. The library is open to the public Monday through Friday 12 pm to 5 pm.

## The Strand Theatre

618 Hill Ave., Grafton, ND 58237

N48° 25.092' W97° 24.661' ★



This three-story Art Moderne building was constructed between 1946-1947. The Strand Theatre retains excellent external physical integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. The interior also retains many of its original Art Moderne details, including

the balcony stairwells, the lobby and auditorium wall cladding, and the auditorium glass block decorative lighting. The theatre holds movie showings on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

## Forest River State Bank

110 Front St, Forest River, ND 58233

N48° 12.817' W97° 28.117'



This Prairie School style bank was built in 1919 after the town's original bank building burned in one of the fires that reshaped Forest River's business district. The integrity of the Forest River State Bank's exterior design, materials, and workmanship

remains quite high. The building is the last remaining historic structure of Forest River's once thriving main street and is a testament to the bustling community that the town once was. The building is not open to the public.

## Ridge Trail Historic District

Various sites

Access is restricted

To travel the highways of the 1800s in North Dakota, most travelers used eight oxcart trail segments in Walsh and Pembina counties that contribute to the discontinuous Ridge Trail Historic District. The oxcart trails in Walsh and Pembina counties in the northeastern corner of North Dakota were paths generated by travelers crossing the landscape between St. Paul, Minnesota and the Selkirk Settlement in Manitoba, Canada during the middle of the 19th century. Travel was focused on trade between these settlements, and these travelers traditionally utilized oxen to haul carts laden with goods. The continuous action of these oxcarts, rolling over the landscape for decades, produced paths that were the first permanent overland highways throughout the region. Visible remnants of these trails are sparse and mostly privately owned.



## OTHER PLACES TO VISIT IN Walsh County

### Alexander Henry Rest Area

I-29, Mile Marker 179 N, south of Drayton, ND 58225  
N48°27.486 W97° 11.632

### Homme Dam Recreation Area

Two miles west of Park River, ND 58270 on  
State Highway #17  
N48° 24.025 W97° 47.804

### Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) Fountain

401 Harris Ave. S, Park River, ND 58270  
N48° 23.665 W97° 44.695

### Matecjek Dam Recreation Area

6 miles south of Lankin, ND 58250  
N48° 13.683 W97° 55.514

### Lake Ardoch National Wildlife Refuge

Northwest of Ardoch, ND 58261  
N48° 14.01 W97° 18.51

### Dahlen Esker

midway between Fordville and Dahlen, one mile west of  
Hwy 32 at the Grand Forks/Walsh county line.  
N48° 11.697 W97° 52.669

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Printed: 2021 by Morgan Printing, Grafton, ND  
Designed: 2021 by Knight Printing

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